

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/618,689

Examiner

David C. Reese

Applicant(s)

DOUBLER ET AL.

Art Unit

3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 27 June 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-26.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

THIS OFFICE ACTION IS IN RESPONSE TO APPLICANT'S AMENDMENT FILED 6/27/2007.

Status of Claims

- Claims 1 and 14 were amended.
- Claims 1-26 are pending.

Election/Restrictions

[1] Claim 1 is generic and allowable. Accordingly, the restriction requirement as to the encompassed species is hereby withdrawn and claims 6-9, 11-13, 15-16, and 18 are directed to a species no longer withdrawn from consideration since all of the claims to this species depend from or otherwise include each of the limitations of an allowed generic claim.

In view of the above noted withdrawal of the restriction requirement as to the linked species, applicant(s) are advised that if any claim(s) depending from or including all the limitations of the allowable generic linking claim(s) be presented in a continuation or divisional application, such claims may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Once a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. See *In re Ziegler*, 44 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

Response to Arguments

[2] Applicant's amendment filed 6/27/2007 regarding rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 have been fully considered. Due to the amendment to the claims, the prior art fails to further anticipate. Accordingly, the Examiner has withdrawn all previous rejections (in view of examiner's amendment) over Batten and Freedland et al. (see reasons for allowance).

Allowable Subject Matter

- [3] Claims 1-26 are allowed.

Examiner's Amendment

- [4] An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephonic interview with David Dorton on 9/10/2007.

The examiner has amended the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Change claims 1, 14, and 26 as shown (see attached proposed claims);

Claim 16, line 2, "meats" should be --means--;

Claim 18, line 1, "claim" should be --claim 1--;

Reasons for Allowance

- [5] The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. This application has been reviewed by the examiner and meets all formal and substantive (i.e., statutory) requirements and the language of the claims is enabled by, and finds adequate descriptive supported in the application disclosure as originally filed.

The primary reason for the allowance of the claims is the presence of limitations in the independent claims, which are not found in the prior art references. The examiner believes that

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the record of the prosecution as a whole makes clear his reasons for allowing a claim or claims. However, the examiner would like to point out one or more specific reasons and/or limitations that the prior art fails to disclose and/or make obvious. Hence, as for independent claims 1, 14, and 26, the prior art fails to disclose of a compression ring member having an inner ribbed surface defining peaks and valleys having the same shape as the peaks and valleys of said outer ribbed surfaced so as to be complementary to said peaks and valleys of said outer ribbed surface of said collet member; as well as wherein said release position results in said peaks of said collet member being entirely disposed in said valley of said compression ring for expansion of said collet member thereby releasing the outer gripping surface of the shank member.

Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee, and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

[6] Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David C. Reese whose telephone number is (571) 272-7082. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am-6:00 pm Monday-Thursday.

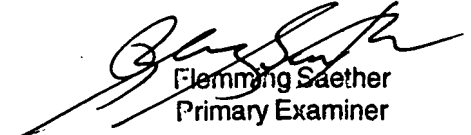
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J.J. Swann can be reached at (571) 272-7075. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is the following: (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DCR



David Reese
Assistant Examiner
Art Unit 3677



Flemming Saether
Primary Examiner

1. (PROPOSED) A precise linear fastener system comprising:

a collet member having a base end, a top end, an inner engaging surface, and an outer ribbed surface positioned about a central axis, said outer ribbed surface defining peaks and valleys;

a compression ring member having a base end, a front end, an inner ribbed surface defining peaks and valleys having the same shape as the peaks and valleys of said outer ribbed surface so as to be complementary to said peaks and valleys of said outer ribbed surface of said collet member, and an outer surface positioned about a central axis;

said inner ribbed surface of said compression ring member being constructed and arranged for coaxial alignment and overlapping engagement with respect to said outer ribbed surface of said collet member, said compression ring member non-rotationally linearly traversable with respect to said outer ribbed surface of said collet member between a first release position and a second engaged position, wherein said engaged position results in said outer ribbed surface of said collet member and said inner ribbed surface of said compression ring compressing said collet member and tensilely loading said compression ring member to engage a shank member having an outer gripping surface whereby said collet member is clamped to the shank member without rotating said collet member, and wherein said release position results in said peaks of said collet member being entirely disposed in said valleys of said compression ring for expansion of said collet member thereby releasing the outer gripping surface of the shank member.

14. (PROPOSED) A precise linear fastener system comprising:

a collet member having a base end, a top end, an inner engaging surface, and an outer ribbed surface positioned about a central axis, said outer ribbed surface defining peaks and valleys; and

a compression ring member having a base end, a front end, an inner ribbed surface defining peaks and valleys having the same shape as the peaks and valleys of said outer ribbed surface so as to be complementary to said peaks and valleys of said outer ribbed surface of said collet member ~~having at least one radially inwardly extending rib~~, and an outer surface positioned about a central axis;

said inner ribbed surface of said compression ring member being constructed and arranged for coaxial alignment and overlapping engagement with respect to said outer ribbed surface of said collet member, said compression ring member non-rotationally linearly traversable with respect to said outer ribbed surface of said collet member between a first release position and a second engaged position, wherein said engaged position results in said outer ribbed surface of said collet member and said inner ribbed surface of said compression ring compressing said collet member and tensilely loading said compression ring member to engage a shank member having an outer gripping surface whereby said collet member is clamped to the shank member without rotating said collet member, and wherein said release position results in said peaks of said collet member being entirely disposed in said valleys of said compression ring for

expansion of said collet member thereby releasing the outer gripping surface of the shank member;

wherein said first end of said shank member includes a tensioning means, said tensioning means being constructed and arranged to allow said shank member to be tensilely loaded prior to linear traversal of said compression ring member into said engagement position with respect to said collet member;

wherein said shank member tensioning means includes at least one internal bore extending inwardly from said first end of said shank member along the longitudinal centerline of said shank member, wherein said at least one internal bore is constructed and arranged for gripping and placing a tensile load on said shank member prior to linear traversal of said compression ring member into said engagement position with respect to said collet member; and

wherein said internal bore includes internal threads.

26. (PROPOSED) A linear fastener system, comprising:

a collet member including an outer ribbed surface defining peaks and valleys, and an inner surface adapted to grip a corresponding surface of a shank in a locked condition of said fastener system; and

a compression ring including an inner ribbed surface defining peaks and valleys having the same shape as the peaks and valleys of said outer ribbed surface so as to be corresponding to said peaks and valleys of said collet member;

the linear fastener system having a locked condition wherein said peaks of said collet member and said peaks of said compression ring are in confronting alignment, and an unlocked condition wherein said peaks of said collet member are disposed entirely in said valleys of said compression ring, whereby said collet member may be clamped to the shank in said locked condition without rotating said collet member.